

N. T. TRUE,
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

The Producer and Consumer.

The relations existing between production and consumption are always of great interest and importance to the farmer. The question is constantly arising before his vision, whether farming will be profitable for a series of years to come. We propose to notice one of the reasons for believing in the affirmative. We believe that farming is always profitable where there is a good soil. To be sure a good market is very desirable to a farmer. But if he has the sources of production on his own premises, his different varieties of food, his sheep for clothing, and cattle for food and labor, and fuel to burn, even though he may receive but little money, yet he receives an equivalent which all other occupations are obliged to labor for, whether to obtain the necessities of life. He may labor under disadvantages, but he need never suffer for want of food, shelter and clothing.

Again, though certain branches of our system of mixed husbandry may be depressed at certain times, yet it will have its flow as well as ebb. It was only three years since that farmers were glad to sell their apples at a dollar a barrel. The present winter they have realized almost fabulous prices for them. Potatoes may be abundant one year and the prices very low. The next year a certain locality will have an extra crop while the country generally will be short, and the favored spot will receive a handsome profit. Wool is sometimes very much depressed, and in turn is very high. Such transitions are as common as any other event, and the farmer must labor on and bide his time. We once heard the remark of farmer Macomber, that he was always sure to have corn to sell when it was scarce and high. The reason was that he endeavored to raise corn every year, and had a surplus for people who wanted. He was really a benefactor to his community.

Much has been said of the great West, as likely to furnish a surplus of food so as to render farming less profitable at the North. Now the fact is, the great West has an enormous army of consumers, as well as producers, and they are rapidly increasing. The great cities everywhere sprung up and increasing in the West are already very sensibly affecting their own markets. It requires an immense amount of farming to supply such a city as Chicago with food. Besides the consumers are rapidly outnumbering the producers in the North. Even in the agricultural neighborhoods you will find any number of consumers, so that prices of all kinds of farm products must, for we can see, rule higher than ever they have done.

The introduction and increase of manufacture in our own State are rapidly opening large markets for the farmer. Every variety of food consumed by man or beast now assumes a value. Railroads serve to equalize their value so that no portion becomes glutted for want of modes of conveyance. Under all these circumstances we believe the advantages are decidedly in favor of the producer, and will serve to encourage the farmer to make the most of his opportunity. A foreign writer, Bastiat, in a work entitled, *Harmonies of Political Economy*, says, "Increasing density of population is equivalent to increasing facility of production." If this be true, certainly the farmer has increasing advantages for raising whatever he may choose at the least possible cost. We can only refer to the use of improved modes of agriculture within a few years, to verify the assertion of the author just quoted.

The State of Maine has been but most imperfectly developed. Its natural resources are very great, and the greater its population the more valuable will be its productions. A heap of stone among the mountains may have no value, but let it be in the midst of a city and every stone will have a price set upon it for some use. Thus everything tends to render more valuable each year whatever belongs to the farmer. Who would have thought of building a house for profit on Mount Washington forty years ago, or of selling ice by the cargo from our ponds near the seaboard? The wants of the consuming class increase in proportion to their population, or rather to the density of population.

Then, again, it must be remembered that almost everything which the farmer raises, perishes before the end of a year, and must be renewed. A year soon rolls round and brings with it own necessities, which the farmer alone can supply.

Hop Growers' Convention.

In accordance with previous notice, there was a meeting of the leading hop growers in Bath and vicinity, on Monday evening, Dec. 11th, at Dr. True's school-room, for the purpose of discussing the best methods of raising hops. Mighill Mason, Esq., was chosen chairman, and N. T. True, secretary. The meeting proved most interesting. A great many valuable hints were given, and we have been able to report, which will, we doubt not, give an impulse to the hop growing interest in this vicinity.

Mr. Milton Grover being called upon, said that he had raised hops three years. Prepared the ground the same as for corn, seven feet apart each way, three bushels of root to the acre. Planted the first year to coal, becomes fusile, is easily split, kindles with corn and potatoes, and makes an exceedingly hot fire. Nothing is better to heat up a room suddenly, hot and cold weather. We think that a kilo of two bushels of such wood will last a small family for a year, and add much to its comfort, and to the convenience of cooking. From some experiments of our own, we think that we shall continue hereafter to have a pile of charred wood in addition to our other wooden conveniences.

Gravel.

It is a curious fact that many villages and even rural districts in this State, find it difficult to obtain gravel, or, in fact, any kind of earth to mend the highways. It would be a wise provision in the flocks of a town or village to set apart for public use some gravel hill otherwise useless. Such villages would frequently find it for their interest to purchase by subscription, or otherwise, a gravel hill for the public convenience. Why not?

Treatise on the Grass.

Judging from the extracts in "A Practical Treatise on the Grapes," by Wm. Thompson, (England,) in the last number of the *horticulturist*, and from the fact that in three years it has passed through four editions, we should regard it a valuable treatise, and one worth republishing in this country. Cannot the Meads. Woods. Give it to us through the pages of their publication?

Treatise on the Grass.

A Correspondent of the *W. F. Farmer* says: "To turn over, stubble, rye or grass, or other green crops smoothly without clogging the plow, attack the plowshares to the plowbeams by boring a hole, or fasten it in any other convenient way, and let it drag by the sides." 1865. No. 26, *Agri. and Mech. Journals*.

Mr. A. T. Hill of Norway inquired in regard to the different kinds of plow. "Barton Lyon said that corn was the cheapest as it would last ten years. White pine is good for the hops, but of short durability."

Convention of Wool-Growers and Manufacturers.

A convention of Wool-Growers and Wool-Manufacturers was held in the city of Syracuse, New York, on Wednesday, Dec. 13th. The object of the convention was to unite these two important industrial interests in a common movement for their development, improvement and protection. The *Boston Advertiser* contains a report of the proceedings, from which we make the following extracts:

The convention was called to order by Erastus B. Green, Esq., of Massachusetts, president of the "National Association of Wool Manufacturers," and upon the motion of Hon. Henry S. Randall, of New York, the eminent writer upon sheep Husbandry, was elected president. John L. Hayes, Esq., of Massachusetts, and Gen. S. D. Harris, of Ohio, were appointed vice-presidents. The report of the convention, in which the mutuality of interests was declared to be the foundation of the prosperity of both industries, Mr. Bigelow addressed the convention. He remarked in explanation of the objects of the convention as follows:

"This is the first time the wool producers and the wool manufacturers of the United States have ever assembled to consult in regard to matters affecting their common interests. Considering the interrelation of these two industries, it is not a little remarkable that such a movement should have been so long delayed.

The particular cause of our coming together at this time is an application of the United States Revenue Commission for such information as will enable them, in estimating the revenue loss, to satisfy simple the customs duties and internal taxes to the woolen interests.

The war having ended, it seems not improbable that these questions will soon come again before the national legislature; indeed, we may infer this probability from the existence of the commission just mentioned.

As more than *seventy per cent* of the wool required for our vast and varied manufactures is of *home growth*, the importance of domestic wool, and wool manufacturing becomes more and more apparent.

Mighill Mason makes the best hops produced.

He grows his at poles eight feet long with twine fastened from top to top. Four vines are raised to a stake and then turned each way upon the turn. The hop house is to twist the surplus vines and bury them rather than cut them. They will rot in a few days. Hops should be planted early and covered well, and not use too young roots. Care is necessary in setting the roots so as to shoot up in the right direction. The main root of a hop will run down two or three feet in good soil. The runners are not more than two inches deep. A prong hoe is excellent to dig round the roots.

The meeting voted to adjourn two weeks to meet at the same place, and to continue the discussion. All persons interested in hop raising are invited to do so.

Chemistry by the Fireside.—No. 5.

The NOMENCLATURE continued. In our last article we gave a simple rule for naming compounds formed by the union of two elements. A large number of substances are now employed in the arts which receive their names in this way. Such as oxide of iron, oxide of lead, iodide of iron, whose composition can readily be known by simply having them pronounced.

The ternary compounds, that is, those compounds formed by the union of three elements, are generally formed by the union of an acid with the designated cation and low acids of old countries.

They are the most common and the most interesting.

The only contest which can give success to our efforts lies, not between ourselves as wool growers and wool manufacturers, but between us and wool growers and wool manufacturers of other nations. This is a struggle which challenges our united forces. As between ourselves it is not real ground of antagonism.

From the general characteristics of the disease, the systems which are exhibited during life, and the results of post mortem examinations, they conclude that it is identical with the rinderpest, or steppe murrain, which has been purchased at the same place on the same day. On the 24th, two Dutch cows in the Lambeth district of London were found to have the disease. On the 19th of two English cows had been purchased in the Metropolitan cattle market by a keeper residing at Islington. On the 27th of June, symptoms of the disease in the same cows appeared, and were communicated to the veterinary surgeon, who had been present from the 19th in one sheep.

The disease broke out in many of the London dairies, and spread with great rapidity. The Islington cow keeper lost his whole herd of ninety-three, and after another week, you could not find a cow in the stable.

On the 27th the disease appeared in Norfolk, then in Suffolk and Hampshire; then it invaded one county after another in the south and west; then reached the north of England, and in a few days was in Lancashire.

On the 29th it was in the Tyneside, and in a few days was in Scotland, until, on the 14th of October, it had extended to twenty-one counties in England, two in Wales; and sixteen in Scotland.

From the metropolitan the disease seems to have crossed over the sea to Holland with some difficulty, and had been exposed to the winds.

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